

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, November 17, 1798, from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

TO JAMES MADISON J. MSS.

Monticello, November 17, 1798.

Mr. Richardson has been detained by several jobs indispensible to the progress of the carpenters, & to the securing what is done against winter. When will Whitten be done with you? or could you by any means dispense with his services till I set out for Philadelphia? My floors can only be laid while I am at home, and I can not get a workman here. Perhaps you have some other with you or near you who could go on with your work till his return to you. I only mention these things that if you have any other person who could enable you to spare him a few weeks, I could employ him to much accommodation till my departure in laying my floors. But in this consult your own convenience only.

I enclose you a copy of the draught of the Kentucky resolves. I think we should distinctly affirm all the important principles they contain, so as to hold to that ground in future, and leave the matter in such a train as that we may not be committed absolutely to push the matter to extremities, & yet may be free to push as far as events will render prudent. I think to set out so as to arrive in Philadelphia the Saturday before Christmas. My friendly respects to mrs. Madison, to your father & family; health, happiness & adieu to yourself.

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40. lbs. of [] nails @ 14½d per lb. were sent this morning, being all we had. They contained (according to the count of a single pound) $314 \times 40 = 12.560$.